

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A television broadcast content distributing system comprising:

a plurality of television broadcast content distributing servers for generating television broadcast contents;

a plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals for receiving said television broadcast contents;

a first channel allocating switch, connected to said television broadcast content distributing servers, for allocating channels to said television broadcast content distributing servers, respectively;

a plurality of second channel allocating switches, each connected to one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals, said each of said second allocating channel switches allocating one or more of said channels to said one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals; and

a plurality of virtual local area networks, each arranged in correspondence with one of said channels between outputs of said first channel allocating switch and inputs of said second channel allocating switches,

wherein each of said second channel allocating switches comprises:

a control section;

a correspondence storing section, connected to said control section, for storing a correspondence table between physical addresses of said television broadcast content receiving terminals connected to said each of said second channel allocating switches and selected ones of said virtual local area networks;

a switch section, connected to said control section and provided between said virtual local area networks and one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals; and

a transceiver, connected to said default server, for communicating with at least one of said television broadcast content distributing servers.

2. (Currently Amended) A television broadcast content distributing system comprising:

a plurality of television broadcast content distributing servers for generating television broadcast contents;

a default server for generating a menu of said television broadcast contents;

a plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals for receiving said television broadcast contents and said menu of said television broadcast contents;

a first channel allocating switch, connected to said television broadcast content distributing servers and said default server, for allocating channels to said television broadcast content distributing servers and said default server, respectively;

a plurality of second channel allocating switches, each connected to one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals, said each of said second allocating channel switches allocating one or more of said channels to said one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals; and

a plurality of virtual local area networks, each arranged in correspondence with one of said channels between outputs of said first channel allocating switch and inputs of said second channel allocating switches,

wherein each of said second channel allocating switches comprises:

a control section;

a correspondence storing section, connected to said control section, for storing a correspondence table between physical addresses of said television broadcast content receiving terminals connected to said each of said second channel allocating switches and selected ones of said virtual local area networks;

a switch section, connected to said control section and provided between said virtual local area networks and one or more of said television broadcast content receiving terminals; and

a transceiver, connected to said default server, for communicating with said default server.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim [[3]] 2, wherein said correspondence storing section comprises a nonvolatile memory,

said control section receiving a power-on signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals and allocating one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said correspondence storing section using a physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals.

5. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim [[3]] 2, wherein said correspondence storing section comprises a volatile memory,

said control section receiving a power-on signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals and allocating one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said menu of said television broadcast contents generated from said default server.

6. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said control section registers said allocated one of said virtual local area networks in said correspondence storing section by referring to the physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals.

7. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim [[3]] 2, wherein said control section receives a channel switching request signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals and allocates one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said menu of said television broadcast contents generated from said default server.

8. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said control section registers said allocated one of said virtual local area networks in said correspondence storing section by referring to the physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals.

9. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said default server cyclically receives said television broadcast contents from said television broadcast content distributing servers on a compressed-data basis, and time-expands the cyclically received television broadcast contents to generate said menu of said television broadcast contents by reducing images thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said default server time-divisionally receives said television broadcast contents from said television broadcast content distributing servers on a compressed-data basis, and time-expands the cyclically received television broadcast contents to generate said menu of said television broadcast contents by time-divisionally generating said television broadcast contents.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 2, wherein said correspondence storing section comprises a nonvolatile memory,

said control section receiving a power-on signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals and allocating one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said correspondence storing section using a physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals,

wherein, when a channel is selected by a user by operation of an input device on one of the television broadcast content receiving terminals, said control section of one of said second channel allocating switches that is communicatively connected to said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals is informed thereof and transmits a switching request signal to said default server by way of said respective transceiver and a default virtual local area network that corresponds to one of said virtual local area networks.

13. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 2, wherein said correspondence storing section comprises a volatile memory,

said control section receiving a power-on signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals, reading one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said menu of said television broadcast contents generated from said default server, determining whether said read one of said virtual local area networks is chargeable or free, carrying out an authentication when said read one of said virtual local area networks is chargeable, and allocating said read one of said virtual local area networks when said read one of said virtual local area networks is free or when said authentication is permitted.

14. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said control section registers said allocated one of said virtual local area networks in said correspondence storing section by referring to the physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals.

15. (Currently Amended) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 2, wherein said control section receives a channel switching request signal from one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals, reads one of said virtual local area networks by referring to said menu of said television broadcast contents generated from said default server, determines whether said read one of said virtual local area networks is chargeable or free, carries out an authentication when said read one of said virtual local area networks is chargeable, and allocates said read one of said virtual local area networks when said read one of said virtual local area networks is free or when said authentication is permitted.

16. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said control section registers said allocated one of said virtual local area networks in said correspondence storing section by referring to the physical address of said one of said television broadcast content receiving terminals.

17. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

an Internet protocol router connected to said first channel allocating switch; and

an additional virtual local area network arranged in correspondence with a channel for said Internet protocol router between an output of said first channel allocating switch and the outputs of said second channel allocating switches.

18. (Original) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 17, wherein a fixed Internet protocol address is given to said system.

19. – 21. (Canceled).

22. (New) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals includes a premise terminal and a personal computer, and wherein a user of the premise terminal is capable of viewing one of the television broadcast contents provided on one of said channels by way of one of the virtual local area networks and a user of the personal computer can view another of the television broadcast contents provided on another of said channels by way of another of the virtual local area networks, both the one and the another of the virtual local area networks being switched to the one of the plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals by a corresponding one of the second channel allocating switches.

23. (New) The television broadcast content distributing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein at least one of the plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals includes a premise terminal and a personal computer, and wherein a user of the premise terminal is capable of viewing one of the television broadcast contents provided on one of said channels by way of one of the virtual local area networks and a user of the personal computer can view another of the television broadcast contents provided on another of said channels by way of another of the virtual local area networks, both the one and the another of the virtual local area networks being switched to the one of the plurality of television broadcast content receiving terminals by a corresponding one of the second channel allocating switches.